

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03

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R 181311Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY MBABANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9166

INFO AMEMASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY MASERU

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STATE PASS COMMERCE AND OPIC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EMIN; BEXP, WZ

SUBJECT: IMCO SERVICES INTEREST IN SWAZILAND BARITE

REF: A. 75 MBABANE 2036; B. JOHANNESBURG 55; C. 75 JOHANNESBURG 19

74

1. ROBERT BAILEY, GEOLOGIST, WITH IMCO SERVICES, HA DIVISION OF HALLIBURTON, VISITED SWAZILAND FEBRUARY 10-12 TO PURSUE HIS COMPANY'S INTEREST IN SWAZILAND BARITE DEPOSIT. BAILEY WAS ACCOMPANIED BY DAVID KLIPEN, HA SOUTH AFRICAN BUSINESSMAN WHO IS THE PRINCIPAL SHAREHOLDER IN SWAZILAND BARYTES LTD, WHICH IS NOW PRODUCING VERY SMALL QUANTITIES OF BARITE FROM THIS DEPOSIT.

2. DURING THEIR VISIT, BAILEY AND KLIPEN VISITED THE MINE AND ACCOMPANIED BY CHARGE CALLED ON HENRY NATHAN, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF NIDCS; HR. D. DEVLETTER, HDIRECTOR OF GOS DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGICAL SURVEY AND MINES, AND MET PRINCE MCHLEVU, CHAIRMAN OF THE MINEY
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COMMITTEE OF THE SWAZI NATION . GOS OFFICIALS INDICATED GREAT INTEREST IN HAVING IMCO-HALLIBURTON PARTICIPATE IN MORE EXTENSIVE EXPLOITATION OF BARITE DEPOSIT.

3. DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN BAILEY AND GOS GEOLIGISTS FAMILIAR WITH DEPOSIT REACHED TENTATIVE CONCLUSIONS ALONG LINES JOHANNESBURG 1794; I.E., THERE IS ABOUT 30,000 TONS OF ORE READY FOR MINING WITH GOOD POSSIBILITY THAT AN ADDITIONAL 200,000 TONS IS PRESENT. ORE BODY MAY IN FACT CONTAIN AS MUCH AS 2 MILLION TONS BUT ADDITION LONG HOLE DRILLING WILL BE REQUIRED TO DETERMINE SIZE OF DEPOSIT. GOS GEOLOGIST SAID STRIKE IS 2,000 METERS LONG BUT ORE BODY IS NOT NECESSARILY CONTINUOUS OVER THIS LENGTH.

4. BAILEY SAID IMCO WAS INTERESTED IN BARITE FOR SOUTH AFRICAN, INDIAN OCEAN (INCLUDING PERSIAN GULF) AND POSSIBLY U.S. MARKETS. IMCO WOULD REQUIRE PROVEN RESERVES OF AT LEAST 200,000 METRIC TONS AND PRODUCTION CAPACITY OF 40,000 TONS A YEAR TO MAKE EXPLOITATION ECONOMIC. DE VLETTER OFFERED TO SPLIT THE COST OF DRILLING ADDITIONAL BORE HOLES IF IMCO WAS INTERESTED. BAILEY EXPRESSED APPRECIATION AND SAID HE WOULD REPORT THIS TO HIS SUPERIORS. BAILEY ADDED THAT IF THE ORE BODY IS LARGE ENOUGH, IT MIGHT BE ADVISABLE TO SET UP A BENEFICIATION PLANT, NEAR THE MINE, SINCE ORE WAS RELATIVELY LOW GRADE. BAILEY PROMISED TO CONTACT GOS WITHIN TWO WEEKS WITH HIS COMPANY'S REPLY.

5. COMMENT: GOS OFFICIALS REMAIN EXTREMELY INTERESTED IN HAVING IMCO/HALLIBURTON PLAY A ROLE IN THE EXPLOITATION OF BARITE DEPOSIT AND ARE PREPARED TO CONSIDER ANY REASONABLE OFFER.
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